

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Mitsuhiko SATO, *et al.*

Serial No.: 10/676,804

Filed: 01 October 2003

Title: IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS AND
CONTROL METHOD THEREFOR

Group Art Unit: 2861

Examiner: H. Pham

Attorney Docket No.: CANO:091

Confirmation No.: 3089

VIA EFS-WEB

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (IDS)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.56, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached Form PTO/SB/08a. Copies of the cited references listed on Form PTO/SB/08a are attached herewith.

For the convenience of the Examiner, Applicants wish to make the following remarks relative to the disclosed references.

1. Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication (kokai) No. 2001-154443 discloses that as for the number of light beams of light emitting source 21BK for a black image, the number of light beams scanning in a main scanning direction simultaneously is larger than that of the light beams for the respective images of other colors.

2. Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication (kokai) No. H07-325462 discloses that when printing at the second image forming speed faster than the first image forming speed, a motor control section 18 controls to switch image forming speed to the former first image forming speed automatically after the prescribed number of printing is finished.

3. Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publications (kokai) No. 2002-196560 (corresponding to ARAI, U.S. Patent publication no. 2002/0080220 A1, previously cited), No. 2001-154443, and No. H07-325462 neither disclose nor suggest causing, in the case where the image formation in the second mode is switched to the image formation in the first mode while the image formation is being carried out in the second mode, the scanners not being used for the image formation in the second mode to start preparation for the image formation in the first mode.

It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, that these references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom, and that an initialed copy of Form PTO/SB/08a be returned to the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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